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Letter dated 5 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic (see annex) denouncing the unilateral military activities, including the launching of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland plans to conduct from 8 to 19 October 2012.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mateo **Estrémé**
Minister
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

5 October 2012

I have the honour to write to you concerning an issue that seriously affects the situation of peace in the South Atlantic: the military exercises by the United Kingdom, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which are scheduled to take place from 8 to 19 October 2012.

By conducting these military exercises, which follow those carried out in July 2012, the United Kingdom is demonstrating its continued indifference to the entire international community's call for a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute between the two countries on the question of the Malvinas Islands pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions.

In this context, we recall the presentation that the Argentine Republic made to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 February 2012, alerting them to the increasing British militarization of the South Atlantic. On that occasion, my country denounced the frequent dispatch of military vessels (the destroyer *HMS Edinburgh* is even now sailing towards the South Atlantic), the use of military submarines with the capacity to transport atomic weapons to "patrol" the South Atlantic, the extensive deployment of British military power in the Malvinas Islands and the conduct of air and sea firing practice.

These manoeuvres, which are ongoing, are creating unnecessary tension that constitutes an affront to all the countries of a region that is fully and effectively committed to peace and to negotiation with a view to the settlement of disputes in accordance with international law.

Furthermore, the repeated conduct of these exercises, in addition to being contrary to the pronouncements of the United Nations, shows contempt for the concern expressed not only by the Argentine Republic, but also by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), as well as the Ibero-American Summit and the South American and Arab Countries Summit, held on 2 October 2012 in Lima, at which the United Kingdom was specifically requested to refrain from conducting military exercises in the disputed area.

The United Kingdom's permanent seat on the Security Council does not relieve it of its international obligations; what is more, that seat and the privileges that accompany it give the United Kingdom a special responsibility as a guarantor of international peace and security, a responsibility that it abdicates by refusing dialogue with my country and continuing to commit acts such as those described above.

Argentina once again reiterates its permanent and constant willingness to negotiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands, and requests that this note be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Héctor **Timerman**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship